

THE BALANCE SHEET OF THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL 1938.

We have published the Balance Sheet, 31st March, 1938, of the G.N.C. in full, as we consider it imperative that every Registered Nurse should realise the financial status of her profession. It will be seen that it has cost them upwards of £50,000 to maintain their educational curriculum and economic stability for twelve months. We strongly advise members of the Nursing Profession to *realise what this means*. It means that to honourably attain efficient standards of nursing proficiency for the public benefit as well as for their own, they have paid a princely sum. Let us dissect a few items.

Salaries, Unemployment and Health Insurance, Superannuation and Pension payments for Officers and the General Staff amounts to £12,796 16s. 6d.

Examination Expenses, Examiners' Remuneration, Test Examination amounts to £28,728 16s. 9d. Amazing!

The Registered Nurses must impress upon the Government that any attempt to evade its commitments as guaranteed in the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, constitutes a default of the most discreditable character.

DEATH OF DR. MARGUERITE KETTLE.

Dr. Marguerite Kettle, assistant Editor of the *Lancet*, died in London on May 4th, at the early age of 51.

Dr. Kettle has become well known to the Nursing Profession as a member appointed for two terms of office by the Ministry of Health, on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and for her determined policy promoted by the *Lancet* Commission, to abolish the One Portal to the Register of Nurses, and thus deprive them of the invaluable power of co-ordinating their own standard of clinical education. This reactionary policy was thrust through the Council at a recent date by the united vote of the lay and medical members after having been turned down on two previous occasions—thus establishing lay control of Registered Nurses on their Governing Body. As the result of this policy we are now in a seething turmoil of controversy, which will require the most determined demand for self-government upon the part of the Nursing Profession, so that their educational and economic standards established by Act of Parliament shall not be depreciated. Nothing can be more dangerous to the evolution of skilled nursing than control by the medical Press in the hands of a medical woman.

THE REGISTER OF NURSES:

Maintained by The General Nursing Council for Scotland, 1939.

We have to thank the General Nursing Council for Scotland for a copy of the Register of Nurses maintained by it containing the names, qualifications and addresses of Nurses, 1939.

It gives us very sincere pleasure to receive this handsome volume bound in royal blue and gold, and to note the excellence of printing and paper. At present the number of Nurses registered makes it possible to include the names of all, general and special in one volume, which is a great convenience. The Scottish Register contains the same information as that in the English Register, with an additional capital letter before the registered number in section one—running from A to F.

The Register of Nurses should be in use in every hospital and nursing school, in public institutions, newspaper offices and public libraries, and should be widely advertised so that the public become acquainted with its use and value, and realise the status of persons whose names appear therein. It should be used thus to interest the general public in Nursing as a Profession. As propaganda it should prove invaluable.

ELIZABETH GARRETT ANDERSON.*

By LOUISA GARRETT ANDERSON.

A thought that impresses itself on one at the commencement of Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson's life of her mother is how often, throughout the ages of world history, it is the lot of a single individual to carry the impulse—or the inspiration perhaps one should say—that is to lead on to another phase in evolution. It may be years, even centuries, before a few take up that impulse, and still longer it is before the majority do, and at last the ideal of the one who first blazed the trail, becomes *une fait accompli*, a part of the accepted order of things. Like the rising of a star in the second sentence of this book appears the name of Mary Wollstonecraft in connection with her publication in 1792, *A Vindication of the rights of Women*. Her contemporaries were horrified on its appearance, and she had to meet with animosity, bitter jealousies and opposition, for she was greater than they. Later ages have reversed the judgment upon her, and so she "stands apart as a genius and a prophet." Her ideal was "to restore to women their lost dignity and make them labour and, by reforming themselves, reform the world." "Women," said she, "might certainly study the art of healing and be physicians as well as nurses," and it was the destiny of Elizabeth Garrett and a few other "women of parts" to bring about the fulfilment of this prophecy.

The early pages of the book have a kind of Jane Austenish flavour, which gives them much charm. One thing that strikes us at once is that Elizabeth Garrett made a good choice of parents. It is "A Happy Family" indeed to which we are introduced. Newsome Garrett was a man rich in his own ability. One respected by his fellow men, one whose advice was sought, a man of integrity and ambition, too, something of a "character" and active in the affairs of the town to which he belonged. The mother was efficient, affectionate, intelligent, with an evangelical bent and a high appreciation of Spurgeon. A successful diplomat, she was the chief intermediary in her husband's quarrels with the vicar and other worthies in the town. We can detect, in her grand-daughter's portrayal of her, a sense of humour and a sense of the superiority of women in matters of diplomacy, one which she is careful not to discover over much perhaps to her husband. Indeed, here is a picture of a fine lady of the Victorian age, in the best sense of such a description. In her the attributes of culture and commonsense are blended. For the children in this home there is indicated no appearance of that repression, common at the time, which often brought disastrous results to later life; but neither is there evidence of going to that other extreme, of which we heard so much a year or two ago; "encouraging self expression," it was called, often to the unmitigated discomfort of the grown-ups. Here you have the happy medium, the balance between two extremes, each member of the household with a healthy respect and affection for the other.

Elizabeth Garrett received a good education, for her father decided that he would give to his children the best he could, girls as well as boys. The stories relating to one of the luckless governesses of that time are amusing without partaking of bitterness or scorn, and, when the girls go to boarding school, Mrs. Garrett is solicitous that her children shall have a hot bath once a week; so every Saturday the laundry tub was placed before the kitchen fire, screened by a clothes horse, and the two children came to be known as the "bathing Garretts." Baths were not regarded as necessary accessories to a house in those days. The great schools for girls had not come into existence during the youth of Elizabeth Garrett, but fate

* Faber & Faber, 24, Russell Square, W.C.1. Price 10s. 6d.

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